

**From:** LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>

**Sent on:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 2:59:26 PM

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**Subject:** Public Comment: Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167 2023-11-07T14:59:22Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

**Submit Time:** 11/7/2023 2:59:22 PM

**Name:** Laura Allyn

**Affiliation:** BEA

**Town/City:** Burlington

**Topic:** Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167

**Comment:** I have BC/BS health insurance through my union. Thus, my out of pocket costs for visits and medications is low. However, my biweekly payment is high and amounts to over \$5200 every year despite the fact I am part time (.6). I also often have to wait for many months for appointments- for example- my next mammogram that I scheduled last week isn't until next April. I have had to wait 6 months to see a podiatrist and 3 months to see a physical therapist. My dermatologist is scheduling 8 months in advance. I had a heart transplant in 2008 and need to go out of state every year for a specialized check up- BC/BS is ALWAYS difficult about covering these costs and has refused to cover a standard blood test covered by other health insurance companies. I am always billed extra for out of state services no matter what I do and I then spend months trying to straighten it all out. I would like to see medicare for all or some other form of federal insurance that is able to negotiate drug and treatment prices and reimburse providers in a timely fashion. It makes no sense that companies profit off of essential care that everyone needs- healthcare is not a luxury- it's a necessity.

**Post Comment:** Yes